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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,276	03/12/2004	James DeGroot		7232

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EXAMINER

BRITTAIN, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Claims 6-9 are objected to because the following terms lack clear antecedent basis:

“said channel” (claim 6, line 10) lacks clear antecedent basis as it can refer to either the inner or outer channel and must be clarified and in this context it would appear to refer to --said inner channel--;

“each of said arms” (claim 6, line 13) lacks clear antecedent basis since it can refer to the arms of the first clasp, the second clasp or both clasps and must be clarified and in this context it would appear to refer to --each of said arms of said second clasp--;

“said teeth” (claim 6, line 13) lacks clear antecedent basis since it can refer to the sets of teeth on either the first clasp, the second clasp or both clasps and must be clarified and in this context it would appear to refer to --said teeth of said second clasp--;

“said arms” (claim 6, line 14, line 15, line 16) lacks clear antecedent basis in each of the three occurrences since it can refer to the arms of the first clasp, the second clasp or both clasps and must be clarified so as to be consistent and in the context of the functioning of the device it would appear to refer to --said arms of each said clasp--;

“said channels” (claim 6, lines 14-15) lacks clear antecedent basis since it can refer to either the inner channels, outer channels or all channels and must be clarified so as to be consistent and in the context of the functioning of the device it would appear to refer to --said respective inner and outer channels--;

“the teeth” (claim 6, line 15) lacks clear antecedent basis since it can refer to the sets of teeth on either the first clasp, the second clasp or both clasps and must be clarified and in the

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context of the functioning of the device it would appear to refer to --the teeth of each said clasp--
; and

“the geared surfaces within said channels” (claim 6, line 15-16) lacks clear antecedent basis since it can refer to the geared surfaces of the inner channels, the outer channels or both channels and must be clarified and in the context of the functioning of the device it would appear to refer to --the respective geared surfaces within said inner and outer channels--.

If applicant should choose to amend claim 6 with the suggestions provided above, then such would obviate the objections for lack of antecedent basis.

The remaining claims are objected to since they incorporate objected to subject matter through their dependence on claim 6.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

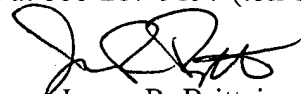
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (571) 272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB